

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 23, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS/SA-175)

TO: Mr. Ben Zelinsky
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Malarkey Ranch Culvert Replacement Project

Project No: 2003-011-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement to Improve Fish Passage

Location: Scappoose Bay estuary and Honeyman Creek, Columbia County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP), and the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council (SBWC)

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish habitat rehabilitation project in the Scappoose Bay Estuary, in Columbia County, Oregon, with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP) and the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council (SBWC).

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace two existing, undersized culverts on a privately owned dike road in the Scappoose estuary. The Malarkey Ranch, about 800 acres in size, is currently managed for livestock production. The culverts will be replaced by bridges, which will provide fish passage and increased tidal flows. The Honeyman #261 culvert replacement will restore tidal flow and fish passage to an estimated .6 miles of potential rearing habitat for four species of anadromous fish (coho salmon (candidate species), cutthroat trout, Chinook (threatened species), and steelhead (threatened species)). The Honeyman #294 culvert replacement will restore tidal flow and fish passage to an estimated 7.5 miles of potential rearing habitat for the same four species of anadromous fish.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Dave Sahagian with the SBWC and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are: Upper Willamette River chinook (threatened), Upper Willamette River steelhead (threatened) and bald eagle (threatened). Coho salmon are a candidate species for listing. For the anadromous fish species, BPA has determined that, if conducted in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions identified in the ESA Consultation Biological Opinion (BO) and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for BPA's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP), the Malarkey Culvert Replacement Project meets the requirements of consistency and no further consultation is required. The only USFWS ESA-listed species is bald eagle. BPA and Peter Bahls of Northwest Watershed Council has made a no-effect determination to bald eagle (see attached ESA No Effect Memo for Bald Eagle)

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Steve Tromly, BPA's archaeologist, completed an on-site cultural resources survey of the proposed project area on June 18, 2004. The project area and APE has been previously disturbed from the original culvert construction and by culvert replacement during the last 10 years. No cultural materials were observed and the site has an extremely low probability for presence of cultural materials due to the previous disturbance. On August 4, 2004, Dennis Griffin, OR State Historic Preservation Officer, concurred (See attached SHPO concurrence memo). In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered as part of this project, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Malarkey Ranch Culvert Replacement Project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals including water right modifications.

Public Involvement has occurred as part of the Malarkey Ranch Culvert Replacement project. The project has been a collaborative effort between the landowner, BPA, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, and Northwest Watershed Institute. The SBWC has monthly public meetings where this project has been discussed. The meetings are advertised in two local newspapers and on the SBWC website. Meeting notices are sent to over 50 local stakeholders indicating that this project will be one of the topics of discussion for the meeting. All comments received from the public have been positive regarding the Malarkey Ranch Culvert Replacement project.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Kelly Mason 8-23-04
Kelly Mason
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thoms McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 8-23-04

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance SA Checklist
OR SHPO Concurrence letter
ESA compliance forms for NOAA and USFWS
Pollution and Erosion Control Plan
HIP BO 120-day Monitoring Form

cc: (with attachments)
Mr. Dave Sahagian – SBWC
Mr. Matt Burlin – LCREP
Ms. Amy Horstman –USFWS